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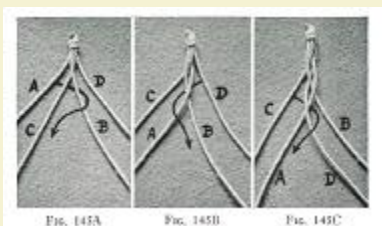
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**New Maritime
Activities on
ShipHistory.Org**

Celebrate National Maritime Day This Friday, May 22



National Maritime Day is this Friday, May 22, and maritime museums everywhere are marking the occasion in a unique way. Door County Maritime Museum has invited historic ships to join them in saluting the day, and honoring healthcare workers and first responders by having vessels deliver a “Master’s Salute” with their whistles. A Master’s Salute is three long blasts of five seconds followed by two short blasts of two seconds. They ask participants to do so on Friday, May 22, at noon central time, which is 1:00 p.m. Eastern and 10:00 a.m. Pacific.

Door County Maritime Museum is located in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The participating vessels from their museum include the historic tug *John Purvey* and USCG 41. Other participants so far are the USCGC *Mobile Bay* and the Sarter Tug Fleet.

Every participating ship is asked to shoot video and share online using the hashtag #MaritimeHonors, along with any other hashtags they prefer.

Everyone is looking for fun after being cooped up at home for so long. Whether you have young kids or are just young at heart, there's something for all at ShipHistory.org. Lessons and activities incorporate artifacts and books from the SSHSA archives and library.

New activities include steamship themed word search puzzles, learning how to make sennits and other maritime knots, and educational lessons about salt-water density.

[Click here to explore these activities and more at ShipHistory.org.](#)

What you're missing on social media

If you don't follow us on social media, you may be missing out on a lot of exciting things going on at SSHSA. Click the icons and links below to check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Tumblr](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.



National Maritime Day was established in 1933 to honor the United States long connection with ships and the sea, and to recognize the historic voyage of the steamship *Savannah* in 1819, which was the first successful use of steam propulsion in a ship on a transatlantic voyage. The day also serves to recognize the US maritime industries, and the merchant marine and the many sailors who gave their lives during World War II. It was initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had a lifetime interest in sailing and ships, was a former Secretary to the Navy, and was an honorary member of SSHSA.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, museums and libraries have been finding different ways of engaging the public since they have been forced to close their doors. You may not be able to visit your favorite maritime museum, but that doesn't mean you can't stay involved. Follow #MaritimeHonors and our hashtags #ShipHistory and #SSHSA to see what's going on.

Photo: Cartoon depicting President Franklin D. Roosevelt piloting a ship toward economic recovery, with his critics depicted under a depression cloud. c.1934

URI Research Expedition on ship *Endeavor* Disrupted by Pandemic



Researchers who embarked on the University of Rhode Island research ship *Endeavor* weren't thinking about how a pandemic would disrupt their experience. Oceanographers Rainer Lohmann and Rob Pockalny boarded the *Endeavor* in February in Barbados for a what was supposed to be a 22-day expedition. But COVID-19 had other plans.



Norway to Excavate Viking Ship for First Time in 100 Years

The Norwegian government has agreed to fund the excavation of the Gjellestad Viking Ship, which was discovered during georadar studies in 2018. This will be the first ship burial excavated in Norway in 100 years.

The remains are located just below the surface in what was once a burial mound. The site is near a drainage ditch, making the remains prone to decay. A trial excavation last year showed the wood was quite old, and possibly can inform the changes in ship design of the viking period, as it is likely older than other preserved vessels. Scientists will have to move quickly though, since it has been exposed to the air and fungal growth is already evident in the remains.

Previous ships found at Tjane, Gokstad and Oseberg were found before 1905, and so weren't excavated using modern standards. With new technology, there is more to possibly learn from the Gjellestad ship.

If Norway's parliament approves the

“We heard about the virus situation in northern Italy and then Spain, and then Trump issued the travel ban and URI canceled classes,” Lohmann said. “That’s when we realized that things were really in bad shape, and our anxiety started to rise about how we were going to get home.”

“When we left, everything was normal,” he added, “and then we read about toilet paper hoarding and pasta flying off the shelves. It was like being in a strange film; you don’t know if it’s real.”

During the expedition, the scientists collected sediment samples from 10 locations across the ocean in order to establish an age for the black carbon found on the seafloor, and see if it could be traced to recent wildfires in Africa. The research team arrived in Cape Verde on March 13, narrowly avoiding the closure of the harbor in response to the pandemic. There they learned that all flights home were canceled, and like many other travelers, they were stranded. Unlike other travelers though, they still had access to the *Endeavor*.

With no other options, the URI researchers – including graduate student Sam Katz – remained onboard the ship, which departed Cape Verde the next day. Instead of going to Florida as originally planned to begin the next research cruise, the ship headed for its homeport at URI’s Narragansett Bay Campus.

The expedition ultimately lasted 40 days, and was particularly notable for Christopher Armanetti, who filled in last minute as captain. He usually served as first mate, and had only just earned his captain’s license a few weeks before departure.

Photo: URI Research ship *Endeavor* arrives at Narragansett Bay campus. Photo by Nora Lewis.

Hospital Ship USNS *Mercy* Leaves Los Angeles



The hospital ship USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19) departed Los Angeles on

funding, excavations are hoped to begin in June. The team will be led by the Museum of Cultural History's Christian Løchsen Rødsrud.

Photo: Oseberg viking ship on display at Oslo Museum of Cultural History.

What's happening in ship history?

Below are a selection of online resources to explore in this time of physical/social distancing.

Explore maritime activities on **SSHSA's STEAMing into the Future** website at ShipHistory.org.

The **Herreshoff Marine Museum** is offering the Code Flag Lima Project. Sign up and get "entertaining content for the quarantined" sent to your inbox. [Click here.](#)

Virtual Tour of the Maritime Gallery at **Peabody Essex Museum** [Click here.](#)

The **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum** has a new online exhibition: *Island Life: Changing Culture, Changing Shorelines*, by photographer Jay Fleming. [Click here for Virtual Exhibit.](#)

The **New Bedford Whaling Museum's** "Museum from Home" website has a wealth of videos, exhibits and activities for all ages: [Click here.](#)

The **Puget Sound Maritime Museum** offers an online database and activities for kids. [Click here.](#)

Tour the **USS Kidd** submarine virtually with activities. [Click here.](#)

Galveston Historical Society has "History at Home" activities on tall

May 15 after supporting local COVID-19 response efforts during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mercy had been at the World Cruise Center Terminal in the Port of Los Angeles since March, serving state and local healthcare providers by treating non-COVID-19 patients in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Medical professionals aboard the ship treated a variety of patients and performed medical procedures including general, orthopedic and plastic surgeries; interventional radiology; exploratory laparotomy; and skin grafting.

"We came to Los Angeles to be the relief valve for local hospitals in the fight against COVID-19," said Capt. John Rotruck, commanding officer of Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) on board. "Sailors from across the country answered the call, forming a unified team focused on our mission to treat patients from Los Angeles. I couldn't be more proud."

Mission Commander, Capt. Dan Cobian, commodore, Destroyer Squadron 21, said, "In addition to supporting Los Angeles-area hospitals, we were able to expand our mission by providing support to a local skilled nursing facility and we also sent personnel to aid USNS Comfort for their effort in New York. Our Sailors answered the call and showed our country and the world the capability of our combined Navy Medicine and Military Sea Lift Command team in providing aid during this pandemic."

USNS *Comfort* left New York on April 30 to return to her home port in Norfolk. [Read about her departure from NY here.](#)

View a time lapse of *Mercy* leaving Los Angeles here: <https://www.marinelink.com/news/hospital-ship-usns-mercy-departs-los-478548>

Photo: USNS MERCY leaving San Diego Bay. Credit: Don Bray

Francis J. Duffy, Former SSHSA Editor & Maritime Historian, Passes away from Coronavirus

ships, math at sea and more.

[Click here.](#)

St. Augustine Lighthouse and Marine Museum offers activities, behind-the-scenes tours about museum work, and more. [Click here.](#)

The **National Museum of the Great Lakes** has a "History at Home" site with virtual tours and online exhibits. [Click here.](#)

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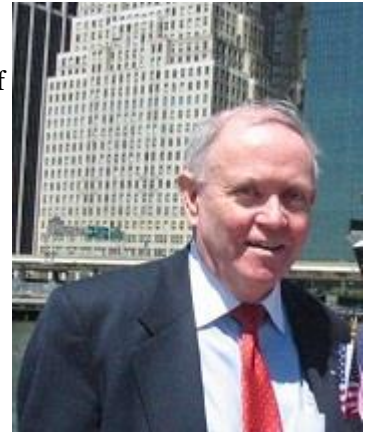
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Francis J. Duffy, an engineer, maritime historian, photographer, and founder of SSHSA's Long Island Chapter, passed away on April 26, 2020, because of coronavirus in South Setauket, NY. He was 90 years old.



Mr. Duffy was born June 22, 1929, in New York City and grew up in Astoria, Queens. He attended William Cullen Bryant High School in Long Island City where he met Joan Marie Scully. They were married on July 19, 1952 and raised five children together: Mary Frances, Michael, Eileen, Thomas and John.

As a child, Mr. Duffy would visit Astoria Park with his father to watch vessels navigate Hells Gate on the East River. Those formative visits would inspire an interest in the sea: He served in the United States Merchant Marine, visiting ports throughout Europe and the Middle East.

As co-founder and executive vice president of the Maritime Industry Museum of the State University of New York Maritime College in the Bronx, Mr. Duffy advocated for restoration of the Slocum Memorial Fountain that had been dedicated in 1906 in Tompkins Square Park after the burning of the *General Slocum*. The 9-foot-high obelisk of pink marble is carved with the image of a boy and girl staring toward the sea. An inscription reads: "They were earth's purest children, young and fair." He led commemorative ceremonies there annually until 2008.

Mr. Duffy, a member of Local 891, the International Union of Operating Engineers, worked for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at then-Idlewild Airport, and later, the Port Authority Bus Terminal and the New York City Board of Education. After retirement, he pivoted into a new career as a writer, becoming the head of public relations for Moran Towing & Transportation. He contributed to numerous maritime publications, and he co-authored *The New York Harbor Book* with William H. Miller (TBW Books, 1986) and authored *Always On Station: The Story of the Sandy Hook Ship Pilots* (Purple Mountain Press, 1986).

Mr. Duffy was active in numerous maritime organizations. He was a founding member of the Long Island chapter of the Steamship Historical Society and was New York editor of SSHSA publication *Steamboat Bill* for nearly 30 years. In 2010, SSHSA honored Mr. Duffy in recognition of his contributions and work with SSHSA, with strong emphasis on recording and preserving the legacy of ships, New York shipping and the United States Merchant Marine.

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Last Chance on the Periodical Sale!

Looking for a spring refresh to your personal maritime library? This is your last chance to claim titles from our surplus periodicals before they're gone. There are still titles that could use a good home, so have a look at the list on our website by [clicking here](#). There are also plenty of tantalizing titles in the surplus books, with some fresh titles recently added.

The books range in subjects from military history, to riverboats and inland waters, to ocean liners and passenger shipping. Periodicals cover all kinds of subject matter and perspectives, from model making to international shipping. There's something for everyone!

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Ship History Center is closed to visitors. To place an order, or if you have questions, please call our office at 401-463-3570, or e-mail adrew@sshsa.org.



Ahoy! is the quarterly electronic newsletter for those interested in maritime history. It is produced in February, May, August, and November and distributed by Steamship Historical Society of America to friends, members and any other individuals interested in maritime heritage.

Astrid Drew, Guest Editor, *Ahoy!*

[Renew Your Membership Today](#)

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